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(71) Applicant: Denso Corporation
Kariya-city, Aichi-pref., 448-0029 (JP)

(72) Inventors:
• Suganuma, Takeshi
Kariya-city, Aichi-pref.448-0029 (JP)
• Fujii, Yoshimitsu
Kariya-city, Aichi-pref.448-0029 (JP)

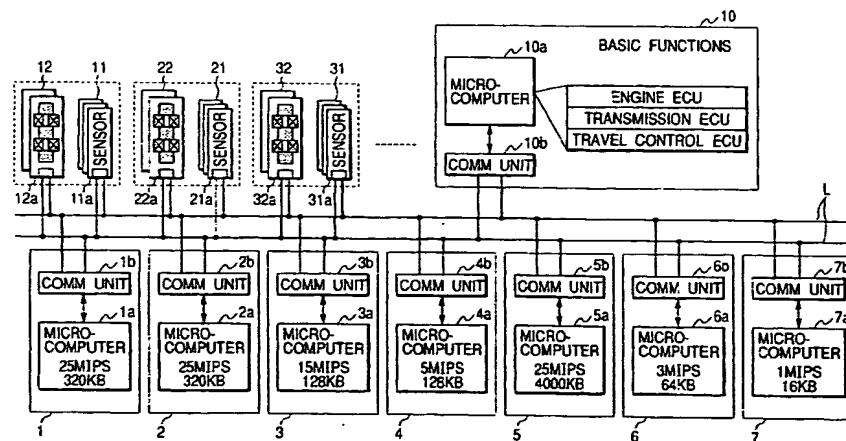
(74) Representative: Pellmann, Hans-Bernd, Dipl.-Ing.
Tiedtke-Bühling-Kinne & Partner GbR,
TBK-Patent,
Bavariaring 4
80336 München (DE)

(54) Fail-safe system and method in integrated control of vehicle

(57) A fail-safe system (Fig.2) used in integrated control of a vehicle includes structural-element control portions. Preset priority degrees are given to the structural-element control portions, respectively. A manager control portion (10) stores one or more substitute programs designed to implement functions of ones among the structural-element control portions which are necessary for travel of the vehicle. A downloading device operates for, when one of the structural-element control portions which is necessary for travel of the vehicle fails, selecting one from non-failed ones of the structural-el-

ement control portions as a download destination in accordance with the priority degrees and downloading the substitute program corresponding to the failed structural-element control portion into the selected download-destination structural-element control portion. The selected download-destination structural-element control portion is lower in priority degree than the failed structural-element control portion. The download-destination structural-element control portion serves for the failed structural-element control portion according to the downloaded substitute program.

FIG. 2



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
A	US 5 957 985 A (LEE LAWRENCE W ET AL) 28 September 1999 (1999-09-28) * the whole document *	1-17	B60R16/02						
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<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MUNICH</td> <td>8 January 2004</td> <td>P. Brachmann</td> </tr> </table> <p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	MUNICH	8 January 2004	P. Brachmann
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